HERE FOLLOW THE GREEK CAPITAL LETTERS

ΑΒΓΔΕΖ

ΗΘΙΚΛ

ΜΝΞΟΠ

ΡΣΤΥΦ

ΧΥΩ ;

DESCRIPTION OF THE LATIN LETTERS

After the Greek letters come the Latin ones, which I have throughout this whole work called Attic Letters, and this for just cause. For the greater part of the letters which are commonly called Roman letters are in value & shape purely Greek, as you can see & understand if you but study them carefully.

The Romans took from the Greeks the *Alpha,* the *Vita,* the *Gamma,* of which last they made their letter L by turning it upside down. They took *Epsilon, Zita,* and the long vowel called *Ita,* and made of this last their aspirate. They took *Iota* and *Cappa.* They took *Lambda,* and by turning it upside down they made their fifth vowel, V. They took *Taf, Ypsilon,* and *Chi,* of which last they mistakenly made the letter X. Of all these above-named letters the symbols are as follows: A, B, Γ turned to make L, E, Z, H, I, K, Λ turned to make V, M, N, O, P, T, Y, and X, which make sixteen in all. So that of letters purely Latin, there are only C, D, G, & the letter F, and the F is not Latin but first Æolian & then Greek. For the Æolians, who invented it, are a noble nation of Greece; they made it, as I have said already several times, of *Gamma* placed upon another *Gamma.* The letter R, in like manner, is made from the Greek letter *Rho,* by adding to it a half-recumbent limb. In this way we can conclude that the Latins have only five letters of their own, C, D, G, Q, and S. Our French letters are not taken thus from the Greek or from the Latin letters, but rather are indigenous and native in their shapes. One might sometimes think that they bear some resemblance to the Hebrew letters because for the most part they approach their shape, as you will be able to see hereafter in the French *Lettres Cadeaulx,* in the *Lettre de Forme,* and likewise in the *Bastarde,* and the *Tourneure.*

The Latins then have, in letters borrowed and their own, twenty-three in all: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, V, X, Y, Z. These are divided by the grammarians, first, into six vowels: A, E, I, O, V, Y, and seventeen consonants; B, C, D, F, G, H, K, L, M, N, P, Q, R, S, T, X, Z. The vowels are divided into two classes—prepositive [placed before] and subjunctive [placed under]. The prepositive are three: A, E, O; the subjunctive also are three: E, V, and I. The *Ypsilon* is neither placed before nor under another letter to make a Latin diphthong; but it often is in French diphthongs, as you can readily understand by reading books in the French language.

The vowels are called prepositive or subjunctive because some can,